SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MAY
NO. 211
IT'S HIM!
NO--IT CAN'T BE!
AND THAT'S WHY I'M REVEALING MY SECRET IDENTITY!
GASP!
THE LAST PERSON I'D HAVE SUSPECTED!
ARE YOU READY FOR
Batman's
MOMENT OF TRUTH?

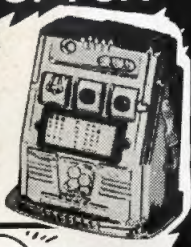
HERE'S A WHOLE TREASURE CHEST OF FUN

THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."
No. 137 ..... 25c

MAGIC CARDS

Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.
No. 183 ..... $1.98



JACK POT BANK

Dime-operating Jack Pot Bank works like the one armed bandit in Las Vegas. Deposit the dime and spin the handle. Reels spin and look like the real stuff. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling purposes.
No. 2060 ..... 1.50

MONSTER SIZE MONSTERS

Imagine your friends' shock when they walk into your room and see the "visitor" standing around . . . as BIG as life. as horrible and sinister as any nightmare.
and so life-like you'll probably find yourself talking to them.
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SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.
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SKIN HEAD WIG

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6 Rolls Film 98c

Light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.
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JOY BUZZER

Most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation." Absolutely harmless.
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KARATE JIU-JITSU Only $1.00

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Here is what you get!

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- Nerve center anatomy chart
- JUDO throws, Jiu Jitsu holds
- Isometric muscle building course
- Endurance Exercises and lots more

FREE Karate Practice Item No. 73 and Nerve Center Chart

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It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball.
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Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . and . . . OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10.
A135 ..... 1.25

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Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket-6 Power Magnifier.
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SECRET BOOK SAFE

With combination lock only you can open.

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700 ..... $1.98

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No. 247 ..... 50c

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Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! Its too funny! 5 slices to a pack.
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An Hilarious Optical Illusion $1.00

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No. FL7 ..... $1.00

Monster-Size

FULL SIZE SKELETON

This 5-foot "Mr. Bones" is scary enough at any time but wait'll you see him glowing in the dark! Shake him and his arms and legs move . . . you'd swear he's alive. If you like to haunt houses and frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang him in your room.
No. F200 ..... $1.25

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BATMAN

With ROBIN The Boy Wonder

STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY: IRV NOVICK & JOE GIELLA

THE ADVENT OF A NEW "UNDERGROUND" SCANDAL-SHEET IN GOTHAM CITY CAUSES MANY A RAISED EYEBROW--AND MANY A WORRIED BROW!...

IN THE LAVISH MANSION OF AMOS STARK, STEEL TYCOON...
I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD SEE THIS, SIR...
IT'S YOUR BAG!
THE IT'S YOUR BAG, EH? WHY SHOULD I--
WHAT? THEY SAY I MIGHT BE--WHO?! I-I'LL SUE!

WITH SPOOKS MANSON, CRIME-KINGPIN...
HEY, MR. MANSON, LOOK WHAT THEY DUG UP ON YOU!
"IT'S YOUR BAG"
WHAT...? THEIR CRUMMY REPORTER SAYS I'M--OH-GLUG-

IN THE OFFICES OF THAT CRUSADING NEWSPAPER, THE GOTHAM GUARDIAN...
SEE WHAT OUR MUCK-RAKING OPPOSITION FIRED THE OPENING-GUN WITH, WALLY?
IT'S A BAG
OH-H BRO-THER! JUST BECAUSE OF MY CRIME-EXPOSURE SERIES, THEY CLAIM I MIGHT BE...

AND IN THE HOME OF GOTHAM'S MILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST, BRUCE WAYNE...
GOOD GRIEF, DICK! THIS ARTICLE COULD BLOW THE LID OFF EVERYTHING!

FOUR CANDIDATES FOR OBLIVION! WHAT SENSATIONAL EXPOSE HAS CAUSED SUCH CONSTERNATION AND BITTER HUMOR IN THIS GAMUT OF GOTHAM CITIZENRY? HOW WILL THEY BE AFFECTED BY--

"BATMAN'S BIG BLOW-OFF!"

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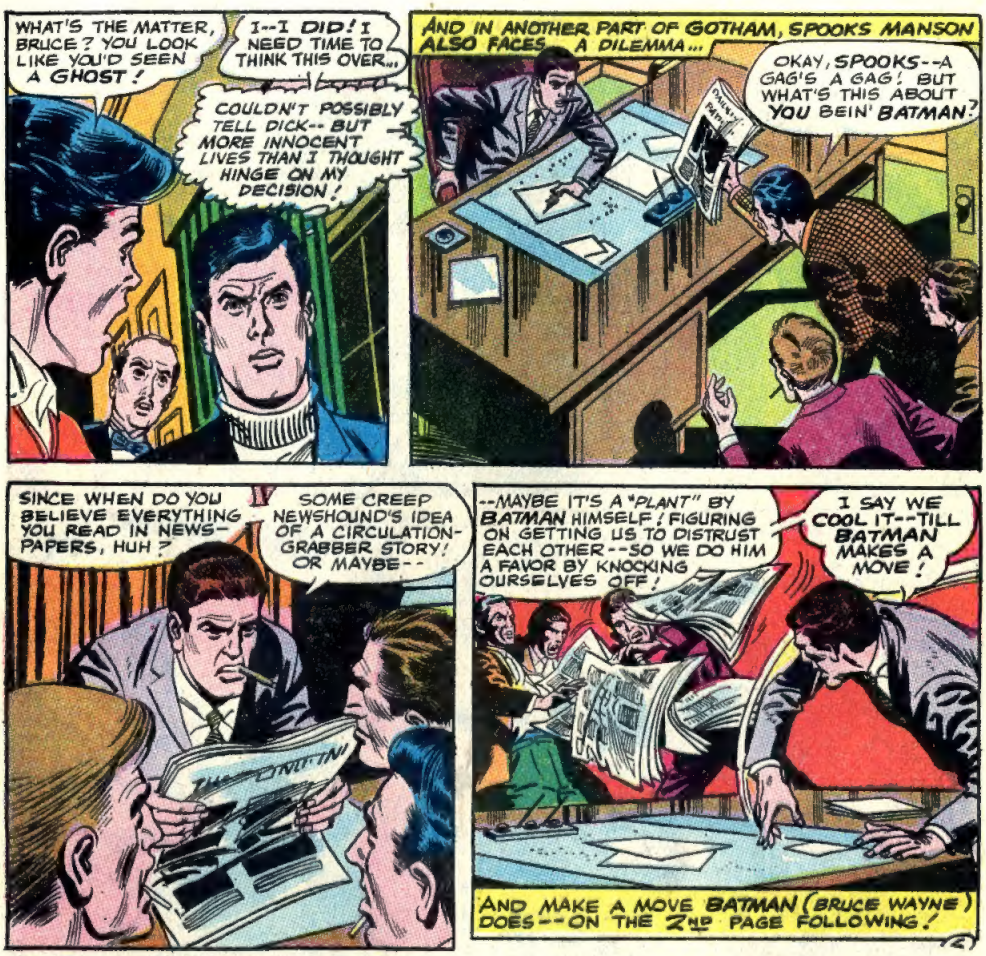
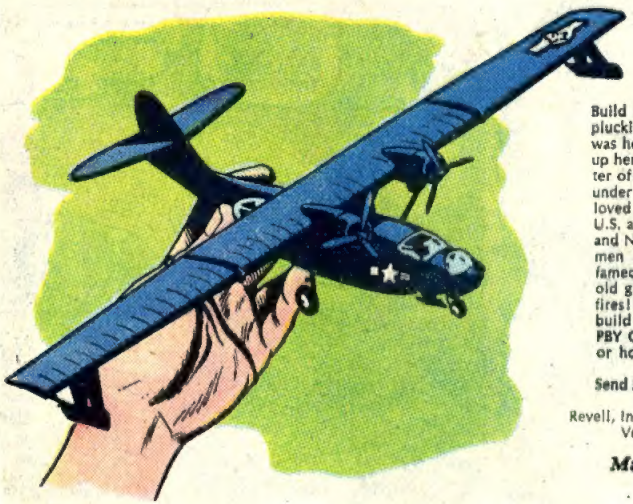
IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF IT'S YOUR BAG!...
A REAL BEAUT OF AN OPENING-ARTICLE, SCRIBE! BOUND TO ROCK THE SOLID CITIZENS OFF THEIR PLUSH PILLARS OF SOCIETY!
MAN, WILL THIS EVER GRAB THE CIRCULATION AWAY FROM THOSE STUFFED-SHEETS!
BUT WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO BACK UP THE DIRT IN THIS OPENER? HOW DO WE DELIVER THE GOODS IN NEXT WEEK'S FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE?
DON'T SWEAT IT, CHIEF! BY NEXT WEEK--ONE OF THOSE FOUR SUCKERS WILL DO IT FOR US!
IS THIS ONE OF THE "SUCKERS"?
WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THEM, BRUCE?
TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW, DICK!
LOOK AT THIS AGAIN!
IT'S YOUR BAG
WHICH ONE IS THE REAL BATMAN?
THE STARTLING DISCLOSURE APPEARS EXCLUSIVELY IN THIS PAPER NEXT WEEK! BY YOUR DIRT DIGGER... SCRIBE
OBVIOUSLY THEY'RE ALL "SHOTS-IN-THE-DARK"--EVEN TO THE INCLUSION OF BRUCE WAYNE! BUT--IT PUTS BATMAN ON THE SPOT!

I DON'T FOLLOW, SIR! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO REACT TO THOSE RABID RAVINGS?
BECAUSE SCRIBE IS FORCING MY HAND! THINK A MOMENT--WHO WOULD BENEFIT MOST FROM KNOWING THE REAL IDENTITY OF BATMAN?
THE UNDERWORLD! ORGANIZED CRIME!
PRECISELY! DESPITE THEIR MANY DESPERATE ATTEMPTS, THEY'VE BEEN UNABLE TO DESTROY THEIR NEMESIS--BATMAN!
BUT IF HIS REAL IDENTITY AS BRUCE WAYNE IS EXPOSED, I'M A SITTING-DUCK FOR EVERY HOT PISTOL IN TOWN!
PRECISELY... RIGHT BACK AT YOU, BRUCE! SO WHAT COULD POSSIBLY FORCE YOU TO UNMASK YOURSELF?
THIS...!
THREE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS! IF BATMAN DOESN'T REVEAL HIMSELF BY NEXT WEEK, ALL FOUR OF US BECOME--
PRIME TARGETS FOR A HIT!
DISCLOSURE APPEARS EXCLUSIVELY
BATMAN
BACK IN THE PROVOCATEURS' OFFICES...
YOU CAN PLAY IT COOL, SCRIBE--BUT THIS PAPER HAS TO HAVE A PATSY BY PRESS-TIME NEXT WEEK! OR, WE'RE OUT OF BUSINESS!
CHIEF, YOU WORRY TOO MUCH! BATMAN HAS TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO PROTECT THE OTHERS! HE'S THE BOY WITH THE BIG CONSCIENCE!
A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGNOSTICATION VERY SHREWDLY ARRIVED AT, AS...
I'VE MADE MY DECISION!
BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK, I'LL ANNOUNCE TO THE WORLD--THE REAL IDENTITY OF BATMAN!
3

BRUCE, YOU MUST BE KIDDING! DO YOU REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES?
THE MOMENT YOU ANNOUNCE THAT BATMAN IS REALLY BRUCE WAYNE...
"...THE BACKLASH SETS IN! LET'S SAY YOU'RE LEAVING FOR THE WAYNE FOUNDATION ONE FINE MORNING..."
HOP IN, DICK! I'LL DROP YOU AT SCHOOL ON MY WAY...
"YOU SWITCH ON THE IGNITION AND..."
BL-A-A-M
OH-H-H... NO...!
THERE...THERE... PRETTY GRIM IMAGININGS, DICK!
ON THE OTHER HAND, LET'S TAKE THE POSITIVE SIDE!
"NO LONGER WILL I HAVE TO PLAY A DOUBLE ROLE! I CAN TAKE MY PLACE IN SOCIETY AS A CRIME-FIGHTER AND LEADING CITIZEN..."
FOR YEARS WE'VE WAITED TO GIVE OUR HEARTFELT THANKS...
HURRAH FOR BRUCE... BATMAN... WAYNE!

IMAGINE, DICK! NO MORE DISSEMBLING TO PROTECT MY IDENTITY AS BATMAN! PUBLIC APPEARANCES--INSPIRATIONAL TALKS TO YOUTH--
--AND PUBLIC EXPOSURE TO EVERY GUN-SIGHT THE UNDERWORLD CAN TROT OUT!
NATIONAL BANK
POSSIBLY, DICK... POSSIBLY! BUT ONCE AGAIN...
I COULD EXPAND MY CRIME-FIGHTING ACTIVITIES! BY DAY--AS BRUCE WAYNE! AT NIGHT--AS BATMAN!
ZOK
"OUR DINNER HOURS WOULD BE PEACEFUL--UNINTERRUPTED BY HOT-LINE CALLS..."
G-GOOD HEAVENS! SOMEONE POISONED THE FOOD!
I-I NEVER THOUGHT OF... THAT!
5


WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRUCE? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D SEEN A GHOST!
I--I DID! I NEED TIME TO THINK THIS OVER...
COULDN'T POSSIBLY TELL DICK-- BUT MORE INNOCENT LIVES THAN I THOUGHT HINGE ON MY DECISION!
AND IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM, SPOOKS MANSON ALSO FACES A DILEMMA...
OKAY, SPOOKS--A GAG'S A GAG! BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOU BEIN' BATMAN?
SINCE WHEN DO YOU BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN NEWSPAPERS, HUH?
SOME CREEP NEWSHOUND'S IDEA OF A CIRCULATION-GRABBER STORY! OR MAYBE--
--MAYBE IT'S A "PLANT" BY BATMAN HIMSELF! FIGURING ON GETTING US TO DISTRUST EACH OTHER--SO WE DO HIM A FAVOR BY KNOCKING OURSELVES OFF!
I SAY WE COOL IT--TILL BATMAN MAKES A MOVE!
AND MAKE A MOVE BATMAN (BRUCE WAYNE) DOES--ON THE 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!



PLUCK

Build her, yourself! She's the plucky Navy PBY, and plucking downed pilots out of the sea during WWII was her specialty. She'd plop down on the water, pick up her boys, and off she'd fly again...all within a matter of seconds and a few hundred feet, and sometimes under direct enemy fire. No wonder so many fliers loved her. She was also the first flying boat to span the U.S. and first to explore unknown regions of the Arctic and New Guinea. And in WWII she laid mines, ferried men and supplies, and was a patrol bomber of the famed Black Cat Squadron. You can't seem to keep the old girl down. Now she's hard at work fighting forest fires! We think you'll learn to love her too, as you build Revell's beautifully authentic model of the classic PBY Catalina. She sells for under $2.00, wherever toys or hobbies are sold.

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March, 1969 • Model of the Month
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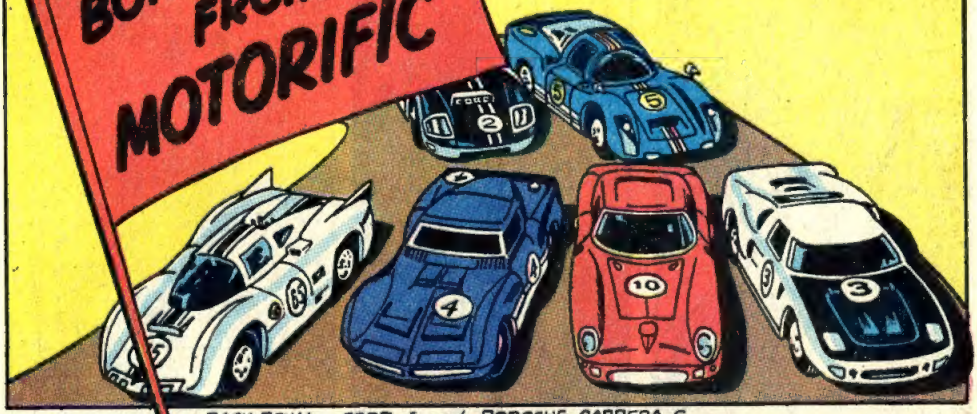
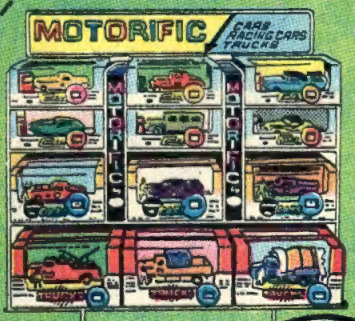


BACK ROW: FORD J / PORSCHE CARRERA 6
FRONT ROW: CHAPARRAL / MAKO SHARK / FARRARI 250 / FORD MARK II.

SIGNAL MAN FIREMAN · MECHANIC · ATTENDANT · TRACKMAN · FLAGMAN

EACH SET COMES WITH THE RACER OF YOUR CHOICE, THE NEW BONUS ATTENDANT, AND A HIGH-TORQUE MOTORIFIC MOTOR.

LOOK FOR THIS MOTORIFIC DISPLAY CENTER AT YOUR FAVORITE TOY STORE NOW!



IT'S MOTORIFIC, IT'S EXTRA EXTRA TERRIFIC... IT'S IDEAL

I HAVE IT! IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
SNAP
I WANT NO INTERFERENCE, HOWEVER WELL-INTENTIONED, FROM YOU TWO! NO ATTEMPT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME--WHATEVER HAPPENS!
YOU'LL NEXT HEAR FROM ME--WHEN THE WORLD DOES!
TWO TENSE DAYS LATER...
OKAY, SCRIBE--WISE GUY! HOW COME THIS SCOOP APPEARS IN THE GOTHAM GUARDIAN--THE OPPOSITION PAPER?
'CAUSE, CHIEF, WE'RE A WEEKLY! AND SO WHAT! I CALLED THE SHOT, DIDN'T I?
WHILE IN THE WAYNE MANSION...
NO WORD FROM BRUCE YET, ALFRED! I'M WORRIED STIFF! ANYTHING IN THE MORNING PAPER?
IT DIDN'T ARRIVE THIS MORNING, MASTER DICK! CALLED THE HOME DELIVERY--SAID THEY'RE ALL SOLD OUT! ODD...
ODD? IT MAY BE CATASTROPHIC! OUTSIDE OF A MAJOR DISASTER, ONLY ONE THING COULD--
CLICK
...TO RECAP, THE MOMENTOUS NEWS OF THE DAY IS BATMAN'S BOMBSHELL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TONIGHT, OVER ALL MAJOR NETWORKS--
THE MASKED MANHUNTER WILL REVEAL HIS TRUE IDENTITY!
IT IS A CATASTROPHE!
7

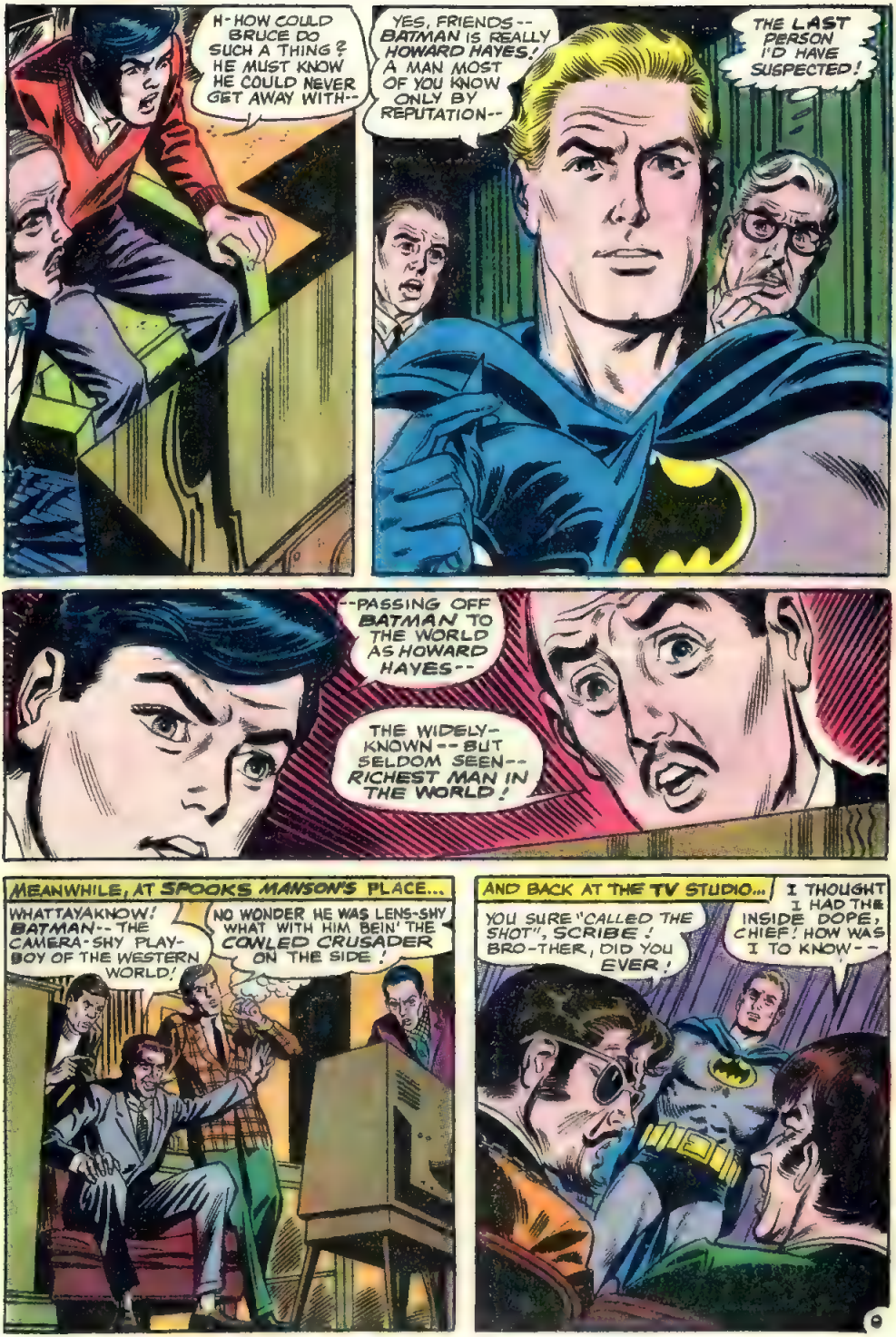
I CAN'T LET HIM DO IT! GOT TO GET TO THE STUDIO BEFORE THE TELECAST--STOP HIM! HE'S SIGNING HIS OWN DEATH SENTENCE!
NO, MASTER DICK! YOU MUSTN'T! MASTER BRUCE GAVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS!
AFTER HOURS OF FINGERNAIL-CHEWING SUSPENSE, THE FATEFUL HOUR ARRIVES!...
MANY UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PIERCE MY DISGUISE, BUT NOW--DUE TO A SCURRILOUS ARTICLE IN A "NAMELESS" PAPER--
--PUTTING THE LIVES OF INNOCENT MEN IN JEOPARDY--
--I HAVE CHOSEN TO REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY...
GASP!
IT'S--HIM?
NO! IT CAN'T BE--!
WHO'D HAVE GUESSED?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

SUPER... SPECIAL...

DC
SUPERMAN-NATIONAL COMICS
GIANT
SUPER 20th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
25¢
JUNE
NO. 156
SUPERBOY
PETE ROSS, YOU'VE STOLEN MY SUPER-POWERS, MY COSTUME, AND MY SUPER-DOG! I'LL DIE IF YOU LEAVE ME HERE!
TOO BAD, CLARK! NOW I'M GOING TO SMALLVILLE TO STEAL YOUR GIRL, LANA LANG!
THERE GOES OUR ADOPTED SON--BACK TO ANOTHER PLANET WITH HIS REAL PARENTS!
featuring SUPERBOY'S FAREWELL to SMALLVILLE!"
TWO FANTASTIC BOOK-LENGTH NOVELS!

ON SALE MAR. 6

SPECTACULAR!


H-HOW COULD BRUCE DO SUCH A THING? HE MUST KNOW HE COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH--
YES, FRIENDS--BATMAN IS REALLY HOWARD HAYES! A MAN MOST OF YOU KNOW ONLY BY REPUTATION--
THE LAST PERSON I'D HAVE SUSPECTED!
--PASSING OFF BATMAN TO THE WORLD AS HOWARD HAYES--
THE WIDELY-KNOWN--BUT SELDOM SEEN--RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!
MEANWHILE, AT SPOOKS MANSON'S PLACE...
WHATTAYAKNOW! BATMAN--THE CAMERA-SHY PLAY-BOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD!
NO WONDER HE WAS LENS-SHY WHAT WITH HIM BEIN' THE COWLED CRUSADER ON THE SIDE!
AND BACK AT THE TV STUDIO...
YOU SURE "CALLED THE SHOT", SCRIBE! BRO-THER, DID YOU EVER!
I THOUGHT I HAD THE INSIDE DOPE, CHIEF! HOW WAS I TO KNOW--

HIS ENTIRE NEWS-PROPHECY AT STAKE, SCRIBE LEAPS TO HIS ATTACK!...
I CHALLENGE THIS FAKER! HE'S NONE OF THE MEN I PREDICTED IN MY ARTICLE!
IF HE IS BATMAN-- WHERE'S ROBIN?
YOU MUST REALIZE, SIR-- THAT BY REVEALING MYSELF, I BECOME A TARGET FOR ORGANIZED CRIME! I COULD NOT ASK ROBIN TO TAKE THAT RISK!
FROM NOW ON--I WORK ALONE! AND ROBIN CAN LEAD A PEACEFUL YOUTH, UNMOLESTED IN HIS ANONYMITY!
WELL SAID, MR. HAYES! SPOKEN AS ONLY BATMAN WOULD!
OKAY, COMMISSIONER GORDON--YOU'VE WORKED CLOSEST WITH BATMAN! ASK HIM SOMETHING ONLY YOU TWO WOULD KNOW!
AND THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY IN THE CARIBBEAN, ON A PRIVATE ISLAND...
GO AHEAD, COMMISSIONER GORDON! ASK HIM!
...ANOTHER INTERESTED VIEWER AWAITS THE QUESTION ON A SATELLITE TV-RELAY PICKUP!
ALL RIGHT, BATMAN-- OUTSIDE OF OUR HOT-LINE PHONE, WHAT'S MY PRIVATE UNLISTED HOME NUMBER?
HA! HA! LUCKY I'M NOT UP THERE GETTING THAT POSER!

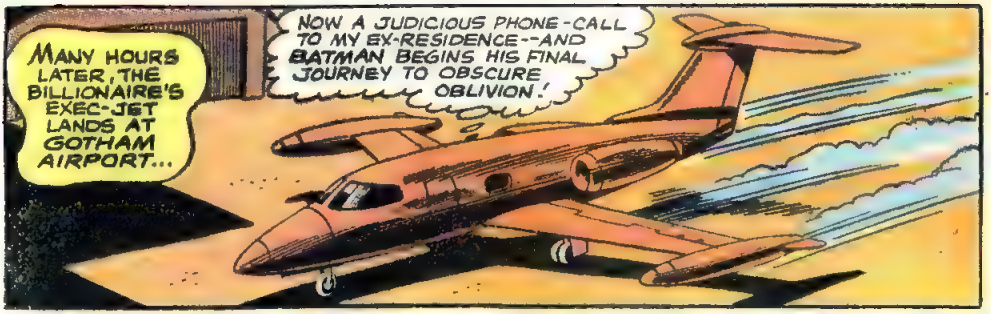
ODDEST SENSATION SEEING MYSELF LIVE ON TV IN THAT BATMAN GET-UP!
BUT BETTER HIM THAN ME! WOULDN'T RELISH SETTING MYSELF UP AS A TARGET!
YOUR UNLISTED NUMBER WOULD HARDLY REMAIN PRIVATE IF I TOLD IT ON WORLD-WIDE TV, COMMISSIONER!
BUT I CAN WRITE IT DOWN SO ONLY YOU CAN SEE IT!
REAL CLEVER, BATMAN! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE UNDERESTIMATED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO ME WITH YOUR SCREWY SCHEME!
CORRECT! I DON'T NEED ANY FURTHER CONVINCING--BATMAN!
HE CAN HAVE MY GOTHAM ESTATE--AND ALL THAT GOES WITH IT! LET HIM PLAY "HOWARD HAYES"! I NEVER DID DIG THIS PUBLIC FIGURE ROLE!
WHILE IN THE TV STUDIO...
YOU AND YOUR BIG PUBLICITY STUNTS! I-I'M RUINED..!
SCRIBE, YOU'RE--FIRED!
EXIT
YOU SURE RID GOTHAM OF A ROTTEN RAG, BATMAN ; ER; MR. HAYES! BUT NOW I'M CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY--LET ME GIVE YOU POLICE PROTECTION!
UH-UH--THANKS, COMMISSIONER GORDON. BUT HOW COULD I FUNCTION WITH AN ARMY AROUND ME?
GOING HOME--WHERE I CAN GET A PEACEFUL NIGHT'S SLEEP! AND, COMMISSIONER--DON'T CALL ME--I'LL CALL YOU!

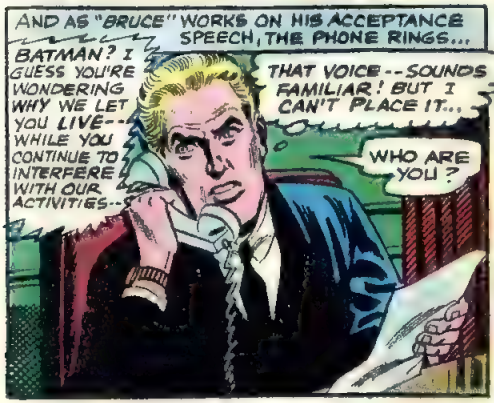
SOON, AT THE HAYES ESTATE...
WELCOME, MR. H! WERE WE EVER THROWN WHEN YOU CAME OUT WITH THAT BATMAN BLOCK-BUSTER ON TV!
THANKS FOR THE ACCOLADES, BOYS! JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SHOOT ME AS A PROWLER ONE NIGHT!
SURE MISS DICK AND ALFRED! BUT THEY'LL HAVE A QUIETER--AND SAFER--LIFE WITHOUT ME!
AND SO WILL HOWARD HAYES! WITH VERY LITTLE DISGUISE, HE CAN TRAVEL THE GLOBE--INCOGNITO--LIVING IT UP WITH ALL HIS MONEY!
WHILE I WAIT--ON A RAZOR'S EDGE--FOR THE UNDERWORLD TO CHOP ME DOWN!
A WAIT WHICH MAY NOT TAKE TOO LONG, AS...
DON'TCHA SEE IT, SPOOKS? IT'S A NATURAL--A SET-UP! NOW BATMAN CAN'T HIDE ANYWHERE NO MORE! AS HOWARD HAYES, HE'S OUT IN THE OPEN!
YE-AH, A PUSH-OVER FOR A "HIT"! AND--
--AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T LIKE IT!
NO--WE'LL JUST SIT ON OUR GUNS AND COOL IT! GET THE WORD AROUND--LET BATMAN STEW IN HIS OWN JUICES! I NEED TIME TO FIGURE HIS ANGLE!
12

AS DAYS GO BY, BATMAN'S NEW CAREER IS WATCHED AVIDLY BY SOME...
YAY-- BATMAN!
...AT HOWARD (BATMAN) HAYES' SURPRISE APPEARANCE, THE FANS GO WILD!
YAY-- HOWIE!
ODD! IT'S BEGINNING TO GET TO ME! NOBODY EVER CHEERED ME! AND I COULD BUY A CHEERING-SECTION LIKE THAT--PLUS A STADIUM!
AND IGNORED BY OTHERS!
SHUT IT OFF! I'M TIRED OF WATCHING BATMAN GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER--WHILE WE CAN'T "HIT" HIM!
LEAST NOT TILL WE FIGURE HIS ANGLE!
THERY'RE THROWING EVERYTHING AT ME! COULD JUST AS EASY TOSS A BOMB DECORATED WITH CONFETTI!
DOESN'T ADD UP--HAS CRIME DECLARED ME UNTOUCHABLE? BUT WHY?
ANOTHER NIGHT...
SO FAR THEY HAVEN'T TOUCHED ME IN MY VULNERABLE ROLE AS HOWARD (BATMAN) HAYES! LET'S SEE HOW THEY HANDLE THE MASKED MANHUNTER!
SHOTS! AROUND THE CORNER!
NOW WE HAVE A WORTHY ENCOUNTER! THREE TO ONE--AND ARMED TO THE TEETH!
CHECKS CASH
CHECKS CASHED
RATATAT-
TAT!!
WATCH IT! BATMAN--!
OH-OH! LOST MY ELEMENT OF SURPRISE--AND THE ODDS HAVE INCREASED BY 45 TO 1!
13

AND THEN, TO THE COWLED CRUSADER'S AMAZEMENT...
REMEMBER THE WORD, BOYS! COOL IT!
EH--?
GREAT GOING, BATM-- MR. HAYES! YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN!
EASIEST NAB I EVER MADE!
TOO EASY! WHAT'S THE UNDERWORLD'S ANGLE?
A QUESTION THAT OCCURS TO ANOTHER INTERESTED PARTY!
OVER A WEEK IN THE PUBLIC ARENA--AND NOBODY'S LAID A GLOVE ON BATMAN! INSTEAD, EVERYBODY LOVES HIM!
HOWARD (BATMAN) HAYES HAS JUST BEEN SELECTED AS MAN OF THE YEAR! AT THE AWARD DINNER TO BE GIVEN SATURDAY NIGHT...
THAT TOPS IT! THE ONE THING I COULD NEVER BUY-- PUBLIC ACCLAIM... AND BATMAN JUST WALKS IN POSING AS ME...
AND THEY HAND IT TO HIM ON A SILVER PLATTER!
LONG DISTANCE-- GET ME GOTHAM CITY!
THIS IS HOWARD HAYES! WHAT'S THE LOWDOWN ON WHY THE BOYS ARE LAYING OFF BATMAN... ME?
THE WORD'S OUT, MR. HAYES -- TO COOL IT! NAW, I DON'T KNOW WHY!
YOW! THE FIELD'S CLEAR FOR MY RETURN! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ELIMINATE BATMAN--QUIETLY -- AND TAKE HIS PLACE AS THE ONLY HOWARD (BATMAN) HAYES!
THEN I WILL BE THE IDOL OF GOTHAM CITY-- AND THE WORLD!

IN THE ENSUING DAYS, THE ATHLETIC HOWARD HAYES BRUSHES UP ON THE DEADLIEST KILLING TECHNIQUES KNOWN TO MAN...
HAI!
H-H-HA!
H-CHA!
KABOOM
KCHUNG!
HO-LAI!
AIEE! MASTER HAYES--YOU TOO FAST!
CHAI-LA!
KHOK
SWOOSH!
NOW--I'M READY FOR HIM! NOT EVEN BATMAN CAN MATCH MY STRENGTH--SPEED--AND WITS!
AND WITH THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE ON MY SIDE...
AS THE DAY OF THE AWARD DINNER DAWNS...
IN A FEW HOURS THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS HOWARD HAYES WILL VANISH--
...AND I WILL TAKE HIS PLACE FOREVER AS THE MAN OF THE YEAR!


MANY HOURS LATER, THE BILLIONAIRE'S EXEC-JET LANDS AT GOTHAM AIRPORT...
NOW A JUDICIOUS PHONE-CALL TO MY EX-RESIDENCE--AND BATMAN BEGINS HIS FINAL JOURNEY TO OBSCURE OBLIVION!


AND AS "BRUCE" WORKS ON HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, THE PHONE RINGS...
BATMAN? I GUESS YOU'RE WONDERING WHY WE LET YOU LIVE--WHILE YOU CONTINUE TO INTERFERE WITH OUR ACTIVITIES--?
THAT VOICE--SOUNDS FAMILIAR! BUT I CAN'T PLACE IT...
WHO ARE YOU?

THE FOUL TRAP IS LAID! WILL BATMAN WALK INTO IT? WITH BAITED BREATH, WE PAUSE FOR 2 PAGES!

Detective Comics #27 (May, 1939)

FACT FILE #7

S-138

The comics readers of thirty years ago always could depend upon getting a great buy for their money whenever they picked up on a copy of *Detective Comics*. For more than two years straight it had produced some of the most exciting adventure stories in the still young comics field. In fact, the magazine was the first ever to print all brand-new stories. By the time #27 rolled around, it was solidly established as a reader's favorite.

A leading reason for *Detective Comics'* popularity was its regular features. The best known at the time was a character called *Slam Bradley*. Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the creators of Superman, were the people behind the strip originally and the writer-artist team of the story in #27. The tale begins with *Slam* and his partner *Shorty Morgan*, both private detectives, being run off the side of the road by a hurtling car. Catching up to the reckless driver, *Slam* discovers that he is an escaped killer, "Black Jack" Benson. *Slam* makes short work of recapturing the criminal, but the story is just beginning. The killer escapes from jail with the aid of an accomplice and he is believed to have gone to Switzerland. *Slam* and *Shorty* follow the trail to a ski resort, where they encounter a ski instructor who seems familiar. After a harrowing experience on the slopes, Slam is suspicious of the instructor. So one night he follows the instructor as he skis away from the resort. *Slam* and *Shorty* overcome him at a cave, only to be surprised by "Black Jack," who turns out to be the ski instructor's brother. *Slam* and *Shorty* are tied to a toboggan and sent speeding down a mountain-side toward a chasm. At the last instant they fling themselves over and stop their flight. After freeing their bonds, they surprise the criminals and capture them. *Slam Bradley* was a very popular feature that continued until the late 1940's.

Another strip that was well-received was another Siegel-Shuster series entitled simply "Spy." *Bart Regan* was no *James Bond*, but he always managed to involve himself in some fairly fantastic scheme that threatened our national security. In this particular story in issue #27, two members of a five-man congressional committee suddenly die, apparently of internal injuries. Bart's boss suspects murder and sends him to investigate. While eating lunch with a third congressman, the latter suddenly falls dead, with the same cause of death as the other two. Bart quickly rushes the last remaining congressmen into a hotel and registers them under false names. He then begins to pour over old committee files. While doing so, a hobo breaks in and forces Bart to give him his lunch, which Bart gladly allows him to eat anyway. Then the hobo falls dead and Bart realizes that *his* food was poisoned. He races to the congressmen's hotel room and searches *their* food. He discovers a miniature bomb that had a covering that would dissolve in the stomach and explode, killing whomever had taken it. Back at his apartment, Bart has two visitors who say they have come to question him about the hobo's death. He goes with them, expecting to clear himself with their superiors, only to find that they are fakes who really are working for the man behind the murders. However, in a bit of quick thinking, Bart turns the tables on his captor and the villain falls victim to his own destructive device. Back at headquarters, Bart's boss remarks, "You certainly cleaned up that case pronto!", to which Bart merely replies, "That's old stuff—bring on another case!" Bart's career as *"Spy"* continued until the end of World War II.

Slam Bradley and *Spy*, of course, were not the only strips in the *Detective Comics* issues of those days. There was also featured *Speed Saunders*, another ace investigator, who in issue #27 solved the Red Crescent murders of the "Killers of Kurdistan." Then *Buck Marshall*, a Western range detective, solved the murder of a cowboy in "Bullet Bluff." The *Crimson Avenger*, a popular costumed hero in later years, appeared as a *Shadow*-type investigator in his strip. Other minor fillers completed the issue. The old-timers in the audience will remember *Cosmo, The Phantom of Disguise . . . Plain Clothes Pete . . . Flatfoot Flannigan . . . Bruce Nelson* . . . not to mention the well-done adaptations of Sax Rohmer's *Dr. Fu Manchu*.

Naturally the main event of *Detective Comics #27* was the first appearance of *The Batman*. This classic first story is now being featured in the 30th anniversary celebration for *Batman* in the May *Detective Comics*. Bob Kane and Bill Finger combined to produce a character that fit right into the *Detective Comics* bag but changed the entire direction of the magazine and of the comics industry itself. Here was a character which operated as a detective, solving the murderous crimes of the day, as did most of the other features in the book. However, there was an added development. The cat (or should I say bat?) had the very essence of mystery surrounding him. With his dark costume and ever-mysterious appearances and disappearances, he seemed to personify the image of the perfect detective. Comics were never the same afterwards. And *Detective Comics* was never the same again, either. The continuing success of *Batman* led to other costumed characters in the magazine throughout the years: *Air Wave, Crimson Avenger, Robotman, J'onn J'onzz, Elongated Man*. Today *Batman* shares what has now become "his" *Detective Comics* with his fellow *Bat*-characters, *Robin the Boy Wonder* and *Batgirl*.

A SAGA OF Sword and SORCERY!

DC SHOWCASE

ON SALE MARCH 13th

SHORTLY AFTER THE MYSTERY CALL...
COULD BE AN UNDERWORLD TIPSTER LOOKING TO PICK UP A QUICK BUCK BY SPILLING SOME INSIDE INFO...
OR MORE LIKELY IT'S THE "HIT" I'VE BEEN EXPECTING ALL ALONG!
KNEW CURIOSITY WOULD KILL THIS CAT! BUT--I CAN'T KILL HIM HERE!
ONE INTENTIONALLY MISSED SHOT--TO ALERT HIM! THEN HE'LL FOLLOW ME--TO WHERE I CAN DISPOSE OF HIM UNSEEN!
MY UNKNOWN TIPSTER IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT! WHICH MEANS...
A PULLED LEVER ON THE DASHBOARD...
SMOKE
AND DENSE SMOKE POURS OUT OF THE REAR OF THE BATMOBILE!
KOFF! KOFF!
MY SECOND HUNCH WAS RIGHT! I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS HANGAR HANG-UP!
WH-WHERE'D HE DISAPPEAR TO?
TO WHERE YOU'D LEAST EXPECT ME, HIT-MAN!
YOU'RE GOING TO EARN YOUR CONTRACT THE HARD WAY!
TCHOK
YAWK!

THANKS FOR KNOCKING THE GUN OUT OF MY HAND, BATMAN! YOU FREED BOTH OF THEM SO I CAN GIVE YOU MY FULL ATTENTION!
ZUNG
BESIDES, I WANTED TO DO THIS JOB SILENTLY!
USE IN CASE OF FIRE
HAVE TO CHANGE MY PLAN--FINISH HIM HERE! DUMP HIM ELSE-WHERE...
HOLD THAT POSE, BABY! YOUR NECK'S JUST READY FOR THE CHOPPING BLOCK!
NEVER DID HAVE THE PATIENCE TO POSE! I'M TOO RESTLESS!
ZAP!
KLANG
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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ON SALE MARCH 27th.

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featuring SUPERBOY and the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
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STRANGE! I SAW HIM STEP AROUND THIS ROCK A MINUTE AGO! WHY DOESN'T HE ANSWER?

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Free Ride BATMAN SLIDE
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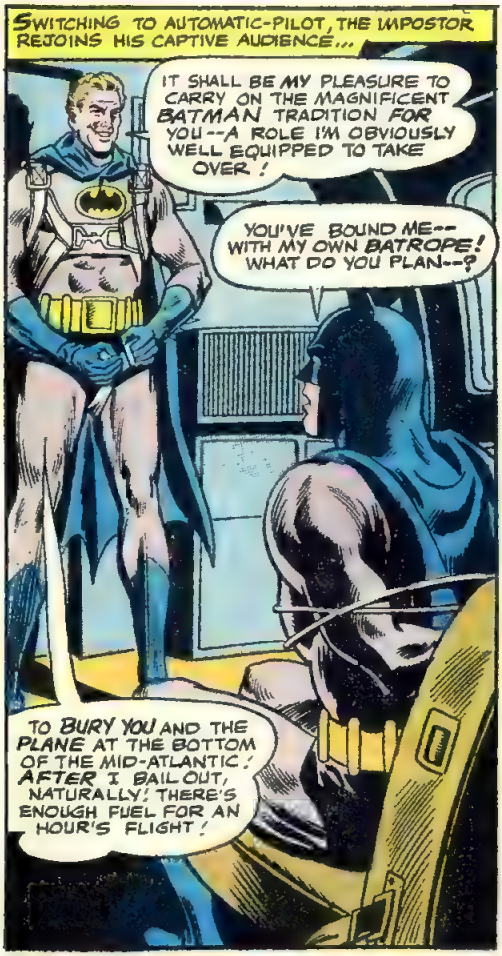
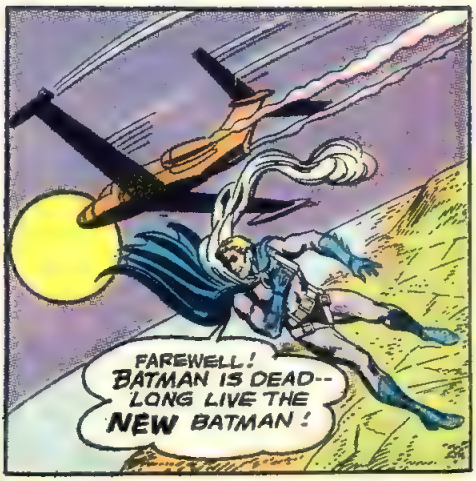
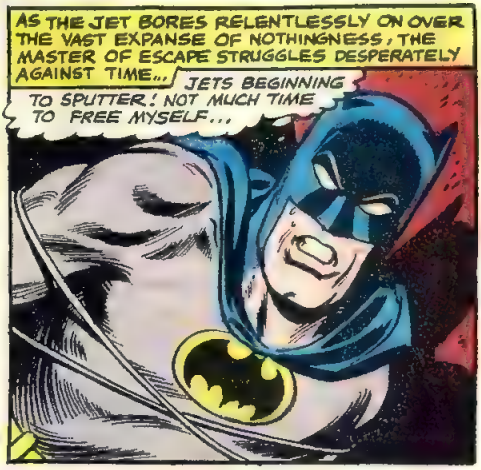
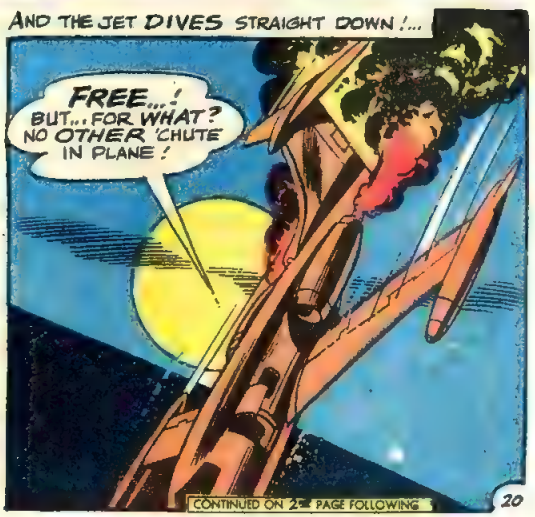
BESIDES, I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE KINDLING WOOD!
ZOK
NOW TO SEE WHO YOU ARE--
HOWARD HAYES?!
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BATMAN'S CONSTERNATION AT THE STARTLING REVELATION OF HIS WOULD-BE KILLER, HAYES REACTS WITH AMAZING RECUPERATIVE POWER!...
THE SAME, BATMAN! YOU BORROWED MY NAME--
NOW I'M CALLING IN MY LOAN!
ZUNG
I'M RECLAIMING MY IDENTITY-- AND ADOPTING YOURS! AND SINCE YOU'VE MADE BATMAN AND HOWARD HAYES THE SAME PERSON--
THAT MAKES YOU ONE-TOO-MANY BATMEN!
YOUR "DISAPPEARANCE" WILL NEVER BE NOTICED-- SINCE BATMAN WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST!


SWITCHING TO AUTOMATIC-PILOT, THE IMPOSTOR REJOINS HIS CAPTIVE AUDIENCE...
IT SHALL BE MY PLEASURE TO CARRY ON THE MAGNIFICENT BATMAN TRADITION FOR YOU--A ROLE I'M OBVIOUSLY WELL EQUIPPED TO TAKE OVER!
YOU'VE BOUND ME--WITH MY OWN BATROPE! WHAT DO YOU PLAN--?
TO BURY YOU AND THE PLANE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MID-ATLANTIC! AFTER I BAIL OUT, NATURALLY! THERE'S ENOUGH FUEL FOR AN HOUR'S FLIGHT!




AS THE JET BORES RELENTLESSLY ON OVER THE VAST EXPANSE OF NOTHINGNESS, THE MASTER OF ESCAPE STRUGGLES DESPERATELY AGAINST TIME...
JETS BEGINNING TO SPUTTER! NOT MUCH TIME TO FREE MYSELF...



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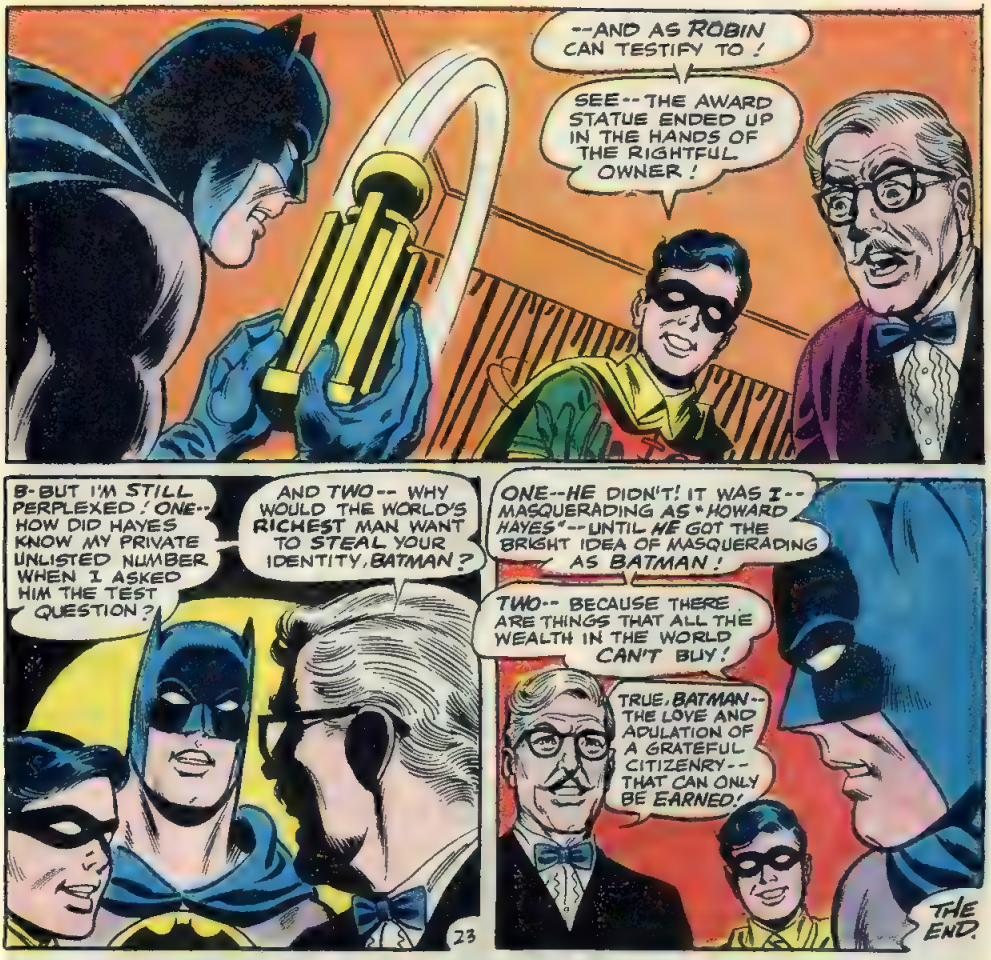
THEN...SUDDENLY!
AS THE PLUNGING JET IS JOLTED TO A SLOW DESCENT, A STUNNED BATMAN LOOKS UP!...
C-CAN'T BELIEVE IT! A BAT-HOOK!?
SORRY TO DISOBEY ORDERS, BATMAN--BUT WE'VE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU ALL ALONG!
AND... ROBIN--ALFRED--IN THE BAT-COPTER!
NAD TO, SIR--AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE!
HURRY! GRAB HOLD OF THIS BAT-ROPE! THE PLANE'S DRAGGING US ALL DOWN!
EVEN THE BATCOPTER CAN'T CARRY THIS LOAD! QUICK--CUT US LOOSE!
THAT CABLE'S STRONGER THAN STEEL! BUT THERE'S ONE OUTSIDE CHANCE...

INSIDE MY UTILITY BELT... THE MINI-LASER GUN!
PHEW! HOW CLOSE CAN YOU GET?
ZIING
LATER, AT THE AWARDS DINNER...
ON BEHALF OF THE "MAN OF THE YEAR" COMMITTEE, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO DECLARE YOU, HOWARD (BATMAN) HAYES--
--A FRAUD!
BATMAN--ALIVE?!
ALIVE--AND THE ONE AND ONLY BATMAN! AS YOU PLAINLY HEARD HAYES ADMIT, COMMISSIONER GORDON!


--AND AS ROBIN CAN TESTIFY TO!
SEE--THE AWARD STATUE ENDED UP IN THE HANDS OF THE RIGHTFUL OWNER!
B-BUT I'M STILL PERPLEXED! ONE--HOW DID HAYES KNOW MY PRIVATE UNLISTED NUMBER WHEN I ASKED HIM THE TEST QUESTION?
AND TWO-- WHY WOULD THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN WANT TO STEAL YOUR IDENTITY, BATMAN?
23
ONE--HE DIDN'T! IT WAS I--MASQUERADING AS "HOWARD HAYES"--UNTIL HE GOT THE BRIGHT IDEA OF MASQUERADING AS BATMAN!
TWO-- BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS THAT ALL THE WEALTH IN THE WORLD CAN'T BUY!
TRUE, BATMAN--THE LOVE AND ADULATION OF A GRATEFUL CITIZENRY--THAT CAN ONLY BE EARNED!
THE END.

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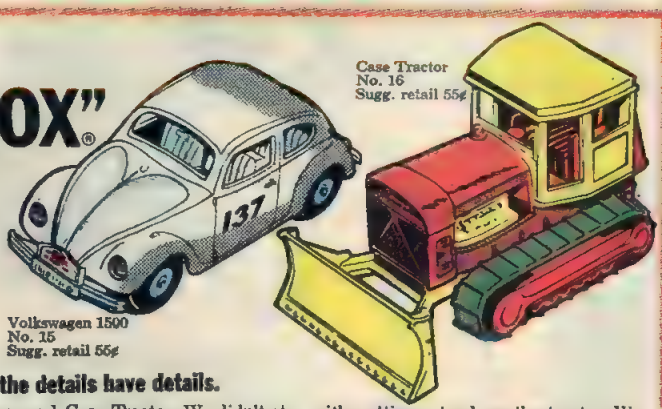

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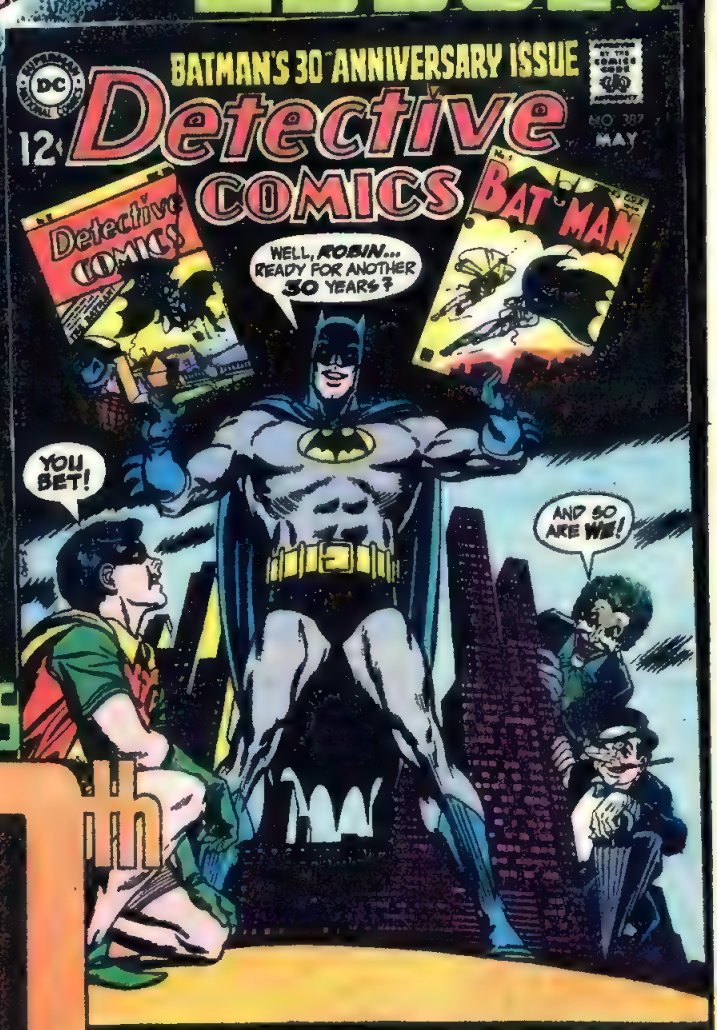

BATMAN'S 30th ANNIVERSARY!

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

One wonders what could make *dragnet* stories, such as "The Doomsday Ball" in *Batman* #207, so absorbing. We know that you can't kill eight million people along with *Batman,* so how can we get worked up about a story in which we know the ending? For one thing, we can marvel at the detective ability *Batman* uses to obtain his clues. We watch the *Dynamic Duo* at their fighting best, and try to match wits with them on how to escape deathtraps. But most of all, we get that feeling of *desperation.* We start to get impatient and wonder when the *Caped Crusader* is going to meet *Skinnay* and receive his big clue. If it were not for that, I think that many stories would come off with a big HO-HUM!

You put in this feeling of anxiety quite well. It took 14 pages before *BM* got his first clue. What was really great was the way you put so many situations in one issue. We had the information of the dilemma, fight scenes with deathtraps, the meeting of *Brill's* district-captains, the search in the *Gotham* slum area, and meeting *Skinnay* (*Skinnay?!?* Where'd ya get *that?*), the discovery of the bomb, the showdown with the *Mad Bomber,* and the bomb's deactivation. My compliments to writer Frank Robbins.

I would think that *Skinnay's* mother would have called the police or at least started yelling "Bloody Murder!" If the two costumed characters burst in like that, I'd have the police on the phone so fast . . . ! Since people in that neighborhood don't have phones, radios, or TV sets, they probably wouldn't know about *Batman* and *Robin!*

One thing more: We never got a look at the *Mad Bomber's* face. The last panels of page 21 showed the true criminal, desperately afraid when cornered. Their fear overcomes them so that they don't know what they're doing.

—JOE RUSNAK, Montville, N.J.

(In slum areas, you're apt to hear the nickname Skinny *pronounced as* Skinnay. *Besides, if you were a swinger of 30 years ago you'd know of* Skinnay Ennis, *famous drummer with the* Hal Kemp *band ("Got a Date With an Angel . . . ")!*—Editor*)*

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

I was ready to give up on *Batman.* However, as there will always be *Baker Street Irregulars,* I suppose I will always be a *Batmaniac.*

Your "New-Old-Look" trend starting in *BM* #204 has got me going again. As far as stories go, I can't remember when I enjoyed three better in "Blindman," "Last Mile," and "Deathtrap." These had the mystery, suspense, and detective qualities *Batman* fans like to see. I could elaborate and point out minor faults, etc. These I leave for the other *Bat*-fans who like to see their letters printed. Stories OK—a step in the right direction.

Art: No tirade this time. It's not what I want but it'll have to do. You could greatly improve it by having Joe Giella making *Batman's* head a little more square. He always inks *Batman's* head a little too oval-like. Refer to *Batman* #207 at the bottom of pages 10 and 11 for those darn oval-heads. As for Bob Brown in *Detective Comics,* I think you're kidding. If that ain't Bob Kane with a super-ink job, I owe you a buck.

—PITTSBURGH SAM, Pittsburgh, Pa.

(You blew the buck, Pittsburgh Sam*—but we'll call it all even if you'll reveal your real name!*—Editor*)*

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

The cover of *Batman* 207 is the only justification I can find for seven pages of fighting which logically should not have taken place. No crime-boss as big as "Big Brill" needs to cringe when *Batman* wants to talk to him, nor would he be so foolish as to direct his henchmen to destroy *Batman* in his own apartment building. He certainly would feel secure enough to face *Batman* without a gun. Perhaps we can understand his panic as the superstitious fear all criminals have for the *Caped Crusader,* but I personally feel that's going a bit too far to justify a "deathtrap" cover which is a take-off of a similar cover a few years back. Neither the cover nor the scene was worth using, since neither idea was clever. (And I'm tired of seeing six guys firing at close range miss the *Dynamic Duo* completely! It just isn't possible!) May I add, a bit facetiously, that otherwise the story was "just great"?

—IRENE VARTANOFF, Lake Forest, Ill.

(Thanks for your welcome ending, Irene! It caught us by surprise!—Editor*)*

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

October is always a special time in Rutland, Vermont; October of 1969 promises to be even more so. Why? Well, the 31st of the month marks the 10th "birthday-anniversary" celebration of the annual *Batman*-Halloween Parade. And it bids to be great in the tradition of the past.

Had you been in Rutland this past Halloween, you would have witnessed why *Batman* and Halloween have become synonymous in the Rutland celebration. Chill was in the air, but with the excitement and music, no one minded. Hundreds of all ages came to march in costume and hundreds more lined city byways to watch. Bands played and crowds hurrahed as "Gabby" Kessop, wearing the *Batmanian* colors, wheeled the *Bat*-Float out onto the streets.

"BAT POWER!" proclaimed the huge poster backdrop. Pictured in large, colorful splendor was a gigantic *Batman* with swinging, clenched fist; *Robin* in an equally exciting action pose, and *Batgirl,* likewise ready.

Side banners read, "BATMAN FOR PRESIDENT" and "ROBIN FOR VICE PRESIDENT"—"BATGIRL FOR FIRST LADY." And acknowledging the greetings of their fans were all three caped figures, along with *Bat-Mite,* who true to form flittered onto the float just at the last minute. Confronting them was a well-known comic magazine villain who failed to depose *Batman* as parade marshall.

All too soon, the parade was over . . . *Batman, Batgirl, Robin* were surrounded by hordes of youngsters wanting to shake hands, have pictures taken with their heroes and insisting the *Bat*-Family share trick 'n' treat goodies.

And for you, curious about such things: Yes, *Batman* did receive a presidential vote or two the following Election Day. It's officially recorded so on Rutland City records.

—TOM FAGAN, Rutland, Vermont

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THE COP
S-143
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74102
?
16
1980
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142116
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1980
142116

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